(a) whether it is a fact that India could hardly make a common cause with US or European Union on its association with WTO;

(b) whether he would also agree that the question of protection of community of farmers was very delicate and needed careful handling; and

(c) if so, whether he would take the house into confidence on this vital question?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No, Sir. The General Council of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) adopted a Decision on the Doha Work Programme on 1 August 2004 by consensus of all its Members.

(b) and (c) Throughout these negotiations, Government has been taking up specific areas of concern to India for appropriate resolution in the drafts on the framework that have been presented at various stages of the negotiations. India has also made concerted and careful efforts with like-minded developing countries, including in the G-20 alliance on agriculture and the G-33 alliance on Special Products, in order to ensure, *inter alia,* that the elements and principles incorporated in the agreed framework on agriculture lead to substantial reductions in trade-distorting domestic subsidies provided to their farm sector largely by the developed countries, a credible end date for elimination of their export subsidies, and substantial market access improvements for products of export interest to developing countries. Moreover, consistent with the Doha mandate to negotiate on agriculture, any additional commitments, particularly in market access, by developing countries like India should serve to safeguard their food security and livelihood security concerns and rural development needs. The *Framework for Establishing Modalities in Agriculture* incorporated in this Decision duly address India's interests and concerns.

WTO Talks

†1951.SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) the conclusion of WTO discussions;

(b) the developed countries who have agreed to reduce subsidy in agriculture sector; and

(c) the date by which these developed countries have announced reduction in such subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN). (a) to (c) The Decision of the General Council of the WTO adopted on 1 August 2004 is an interim stage in the on-going negotiations on further commitments under the Doha Work Programme in the World Trade Organisation (WTO). The *Framework for Establishing Modalities in Agriculture* incorporated in this Decision contains elements and principles for reduction of trade-distorting subsidies in the agriculture sector which apply to all developed countries. The levels of reduction and the dates by which the reductions will apply will be negotiated hereafter. The Decision provides for continuing the negotiations up to the Sixth Session of the Ministerial Conference of the WTO scheduled to be held in December 2005 in Hong Kong, China.

Proposal by G-20 on agriculture

1952. SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the proposal made by G-20 countries in WTO meeting at Sao Paulo regarding agriculture; and

(b) whether Government have analysed the stand of America and European Union and their reaction to the G-20 proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The World Trade Organisation (WTO) has not held any meeting in Sao Paulo. On the occasion of the Eleventh Meeting of the United Nations Conference on-Trade and Development (UNCTAD XI) in Sao Paulo, on 12 June 2004 a Ministerial meeting of the G-20 on agriculture was held which did not present any proposal on agriculture.

(b) Government has been continuously analyzing the proposals presented , and the position taken, by various Members of the WTO, including the United States (US) and the European Union (EU). Since